

USE The process is useful for treatment and chemical hardening of brick clays found in cold, temperate or sub-tropical climates as well as clays of marine origin, contg. significant amounts of illites, vermiculites, chlorites and smectites.

EMBODIMENTS

At the start of stage (a), the alkali metal cation concn. is above 0.027 equivs./l. water, and the sum of the concns. of  $\text{OH}^-$ ,  $\text{SiO}_4\text{H}_3^-$  (orthosilicate) and  $\text{AlO}_4\text{H}_4^-$  (aluminate) anions is above 0.0345 equivs./l. water.

Stage (b) is carried out at atmos. pressure, at about 120°C for 2-12 hrs. under a steam partial pressure of 800 mbars or less. (23pp1501KJPDwgNo0/0).

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